(c) what is the action plan of the Government to help out this beleaguered lot?

THE MINISTER OF STATE IN THE DEPARTMENT OF COMMERCE, MINISTRY OF COMMERCE AND INDUSTRY (SHRI JAIRAM RAMESH): (a) No, Sir. Government of India had announced a rehabilitation package for closed tea gardens to enable the owners of closed tea gardens to revive the gardens in the interest of tea garden workers. This rehabilitation package was notified in June, 2007 but so far, only one tea garden has availed the package.

(b) and (c) Plantation is a permissible activity under NREGA. Tea workers are eligible under NREGA to apply through NREGA processes for NREGA works. However, the pruning of tea bushes is not permissible under NREGA as it is part of the commercial operations of tea plantations carried out in land leased to companies and so the activity pertains to assets that are private in nature. Government is constantly interacting with Tea Garden Owners and Bankers to revive these closed tea gardens in the overall interest of the tea garden workers and the importance of this industry in the export performance of the country.

Import of plastic scrap

870. SHRIMATI RENUBALA PRADHAN: Will the Minister of COMMERCE AND INDUSTRY be pleased to state:

(a) whether Government proposes to allow import of plastic scrap to help the industry in the global market;

(b) if so, the details thereof; and

(c) the details of action plan of Government to ensure that this does not become a dumping ground for plastic waste which might contain toxic wastes?

THE MINISTER OF STATE IN THE DEPARTMENT OF COMMERCE, MINISTRY OF COMMERCE AND INDUSTRY (SHRI JAIRAM RAMESH): (a) to (c) Import of plastic waste, scrap and parings, except PET bottle scrap, is restricted for imports. There is no proposal under consideration of the Government to remove the import restrictions on these items.

Widening of FDI net

871. DR. T. SUBBARAMI REDDY:
SHRI GIREESH KUMAR SANGHI:

Will the Minister of COMMERCE AND INDUSTRY be pleased to state:

(a) whether Government has decided that Foreign Direct Investment (FDI) net likely to be widened in direct foreign ownership of firms, may be excluded from the definition of FDI;

(b) whether FDI was considered by Empowered Group of Ministers (EGOMs) on February, 2009 meeting;